

**REMARKS**

The present amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated June 10, 2005, which set a three-month period for response, making a response due by September 10, 2005, with the initial two-month period for response expiring on August 10, 2005.

Claims 2 and 5-18 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 7, 14, 15, and 18 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German patent 19627115 to Merkel et al in view of WO Patent 98/50261 to Kotlarski. Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 12, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merkel in view of Kotlarski. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merkel et al in view of Kotlarski, and further in view of GB Patent 1,269,993 to Meadows. Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merkel et al in view of Kotlarski, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,116,507 to Scinta. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merkel et al in view of Kotlarski, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,636,583 to Rosen.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10 and 15 if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 18 is allowable if amended to address the noted claim objection.

In the present amendment, claim 10 has been rewritten in allowable, independent form to include the features of claim 1. Likewise, allowable claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 12 and 13. Claim 1 has been canceled. The dependent claims were amended, where necessary, to change claim dependencies.

Claims 14, 15, and 18 were amended to change "spherical curvature" to "circular curvature". Claim 7 was amended in line 3 to change "a" to "the".

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment addresses all of the formal matters raised in the final Office Action.

#### CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

It is noted that an Information Disclosure was filed via fax on May 31, 2005.


However, Applicant has not as yet received an initialed PTO Form 1449 or other acknowledgment of the IDS.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner now acknowledge receipt of the IDS, so that the Duty of Disclosure may be fulfilled.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 5-18 stand in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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